

# TBOTE★news

The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners

May 2023

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Previous newsletters, forms, and FAQs are available from the website: [ptot.texas.gov](http://ptot.texas.gov).

## Next Board Meeting

August 4, 2023\*

\* Subject to change

## TBOTE BOARD

Stephanie Johnston, OTR, OTD, FAOTA, Chair  
Todd Novosad, OTR, Vice Chair  
Karen Gardner, OTR, Secretary  
Estrella Barrera, OTR, MOT  
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Blanca Cardenas, Public Member  
Jennifer Clark, COTA  
Eddie Jessie, Public Member  
Sally Harris King, COTA

## Notes from the Coordinator

### Proposed and Adopted Rules

The Board did not propose or adopt rule changes at its last meeting.

### Renewal Requirement Reminder: HHSC Approved Human Trafficking Training Required each Renewal Period

As part of the minimum hours of required continuing education for each renewal, OTs and OTAs must complete a training course on human trafficking that is approved by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

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Only human trafficking training courses that are approved by HHSC pursuant to HB 2059 of the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session may be used to meet this requirement; no other courses may be used to satisfy this requirement.

See below some quick FAQs regarding the requirement. Further information, including regarding the content below, is available from the [Continuing Education](#) page.

### Is the required HHSC approved human trafficking prevention training a one-time CE requirement?

No. This is a CE requirement for each renewal period.

### Is there a cost for the required HHSC approved human trafficking prevention training course?

HB 2059 (86th Legislative Session) requires that HHSC approve at least one course available without charge. Refer to HHSC's list of approved courses, available from the link below, for information regarding approved course(s), including those available at no charge. For any questions regarding the charge for a course, contact the course provider. <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/safety/texas-human-trafficking-resource-center/health-care-practitioner-human-trafficking-training>

### Where can I obtain the required CE documentation for the HHSC approved human trafficking prevention training course?

Contact the course provider should you have questions regarding accessing the required documentation of course completion.

When you renew, you attest to having met CE requirements. Part of such is having the documentation of your CE. You are required to keep your CE documentation.

## Rule Reminder: Renewing On Time

If your license's expiration date is approaching, there is no need to wait until the last minute to renew. Once you have met renewal requirements, you may submit your renewal starting approximately three months prior to your license's expiration date. Starting the renewal process early in your renewal window may help you avoid issues at the last minute. In fact, why not set/create calendar reminders for your next license renewal today in your calendar apps and paper calendars? Such alerts may prove themselves powerful tools, indeed.

With regard to renewal methods, renewing online may be convenient, but it does involve accessing both the Board's website and the Texas Online system. Either one of these might be unavailable occasionally due to scheduled and/or unscheduled maintenance, there may be internet browser issues, etc. If your renewal is delayed and you do not complete all requirements, including submitting payment, before your license expires, you will be subject to late fees. If the month changes over the weekend and the online system allows you to submit your renewal late, you will still be subject to late fees. Such underscore the importance of not waiting until the last minute to renew.

You may, alternately, renew by paper by submitting a paper renewal application form. Like for an online renewal, all required items must be postmarked before your license expires.

Those renewing late or those moving to or already on inactive status must renew by paper. Those moving to or already on retired status must renew by paper with the Retired License Application/Renewal form.

Please see the [OT Forms](#) page to access these documents.

Check the [OT Renewal](#) page for further information, including for further eligibility requirements to renew online or by paper and for related renewal links. For example, renewal requirements, except for a renewal involving moving to inactive status or renewing inactive status, include having completed the Board's fingerprinting requirement. Until this requirement has been met, a licensee may not renew. Note that many licensees have already met this requirement, for example, as part of initial license issuance or a previous renewal.

Finally, remember that as per §370.1(a) of the OT Rules, "Licensee Renewal. Licensees are required to renew their licenses every two years by the end of their birth month. A licensee may not provide occupational therapy services without a current license. Licenses and license expiration dates should be verified on the Board's license verification web page."

If your license does not show as being current and unexpired on the license verification page of our website, you may not provide occupational therapy services. Remember that once you have submitted all required items and made payment, it will take at least one or more business days for your renewal to be processed and for your license to show as being renewed on our website.

*Please note that the above is just an overview of the renewal process; see the full [Act and Rules](#) for further regulations. See the [OT Renewal](#) page for further resources, including renewal instructions and renewal links.*



**MAY 5, 2023 BOARD MEETING  
FORMAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TAKEN**

- (1) **Karrie Kopan, OT #117161 (Richmond)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (10) hours of community service.***
- (2) **Lara Hess, OT #110836 (Fort Worth)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (10) hours of community service.***
- (3) **Kathleen Williams, OT #119130 (Fort Worth)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (10) hours of community service.***
- (4) **Donald Webb, OTA #206045 (Fort Worth)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (10) hours of community service.***
- (5) **Randi Rowley, OTA #215935 (Alto)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (10) hours of community service.***
- (6) **Tammela Kaldenberg, OT #102524 (Friendswood)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (30) hours of community service.***
- (7) **Cynthia Romero, OTA #209586 (San Antonio)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (30) hours of community service.***
- (8) **Irmgard O'Connor, OT #101720 (Montgomery)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (30) hours of community service.***
- (9) **Susan Nielson, OT #118756 (Houston)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (20) days.***
- (10) **Amanda Hofer, OT #112187 (Montgomery)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (20) days.***
- (11) **Monica Watford, OT #115279 (Dallas)** - failed to properly renew license during the audited renewal period. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (15) days.***
- (12) **Wayne Messman, OTA #211507 (Austin)** - failed to properly renew license by not completing a required course prior to renewal. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 367 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (10) days.***

- (13) **Michelle Ybarra, OTA #212805 (Seguin)** - failed to properly renew license by not meeting the fingerprint requirement in a timely manner and failed to update contact information within 30 days of such change. Violation of Section 454.255 of the Act and chapter(s) 369 and 370 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (60) days.***
- (14) **Emily Kaiser, OT #119454 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***
- (15) **Jennifer Contella, OT #115574 (Santa Fe, NM)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (60) days.***
- (16) **Nancy Rivera, OT #111431 (Nevada)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing with an expired license. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (120) days.***
- (17) **Larissa Perez, OTA #217724 (Victoria)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by practicing without a valid license. Violation of Section(s) 454.201 and 454.301 of the Act and chapter 369 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (120) days.***
- (18) **Calesha Pouncy, OTA #217731 (Houston)** - failed to disclose criminal history on application for licensure. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***
- (19) **Joshua Herrera, OTA #216453 (El Paso)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to give sufficient notice of resignation resulting in loss or delay of patient treatment. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***
- (20) **Rafael Castillo, OTA #212356 (Conroe)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by failing to give sufficient notice of resignation resulting in loss or delay of patient treatment. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***
- (21) **Sherell Baker, OT #116389 (Rosharon)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by intentionally making or filing a false or misleading report. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***
- (22) **Emmanuel Luna, OTA #212771 (Rockwall)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by intentionally making or filing a false or misleading report. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (30) days.***
- (23) **Pablo Li, OTA #214968 (Princeton)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by intentionally making or filing a false or misleading report. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***
- (24) **Mhyrical Richards, OTA #217173 (San Antonio)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by intentionally making or filing a false or misleading report. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order suspended license to practice for (45) days.***
- (25) **Kelly Wickersham, OTA #206166 (Sumner)** - practiced in a detrimental manner by violating ethical principles relating to Code of Ethics. Violation of Section 454.301 of the Act and chapter 374 of the board rules. ***Board Order required (45) hours of community service.***